

## Eastern Region Edition

From Flaming Gorge to Navajo  
Mountain

July 2002

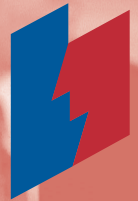
### in this issue

Raylene Ireland, New Executive Director of DWS .....	2
Economic Information .....	2
Online Unemployment Contributions a Hit .....	3
Kudos .....	3
Unemployment Rates .....	4
Business Consultants .....	4

State of Utah  
Department of Workforce  
Services

Eastern Region  
Judy Chambley,  
Regional Director  
1680 West Highway 40, Suite 203B  
Vernal, Utah 84078  
(435) 789-7597  
(435) 789-7525 Fax

# EMPLOYER *Update*



## *Update from the Ute Indian Reservation* **Uintah River Technology: First Year Was A Good One**

Shana Wopsock, Data Service Manager for **Uintah River Technology** (URT), would like to forget July of 2001. URT, a business located in Ft. Duchesne in Uintah county, had only been open for a few months. Computers were working, employees were doing the data transcription, and URT was off to a good start. Then lightning struck the building, literally, destroying computer hard drives, network servers, and upsetting the flow of business. Over the weekend a few days later, a water line broke, resulting in three inches of water on the floor. Work was further delayed while carpet was replaced and walls dried out.

Since then, business has been great. In only 12 months, the partnership of Oracle Software and the Ute Indian Tribe, called Uintah River Technology LLC, has grown from 12 employees to 65. URT is in the business of transcribing scanned documents into computer data. To date, URT clients include the State of Illinois, Hill Air Force Base, and a multi-year contract with the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Shana reports, "Business has grown really fast, and we probably will be getting two additional contracts this year. We are pleased to be where we are." URT was awarded the Utah 2001 Minority Small Business of the Year by the Small Business Administration. Of the 65 total employees, 47 are members of the Ute tribe, and five are from other Indian tribes.

URT enjoys a great working relationship with the Department of Workforce Services (DWS). "They



Joanna Reed, Roosevelt Workforce Service Representative (l), meets with Shana Wopsock, URT Data Manager (r).

help us a lot," says Shana. "They have given us good referrals, and we have really appreciated the testing they do for all of our applicants." DWS tests all applicants for typing and ten-key skills. In order to be considered, an applicant must type 40 wpm with less than 2% errors, and less than 3% errors in the 10-key test.

***"The testing at Workforce Services has helped us to identify workers who will be successful on the job."***

Joanna Reed, Workforce Services' representative from the Roosevelt Office, says the jobs have been great for the Roosevelt area. Wages for the data transcription positions start at \$9.15 per hour, with benefits added after 90 days on the job. Joanna says the company has been very successful in providing employment opportunities to tribal and non-tribal residents, and looks forward to continued success at URT.



## Meet Raylene Ireland, New Director of Department of Workforce Services

On Friday, April 12, 2002 Utah Governor Mike Leavitt announced that Raylene G. Ireland would be the new Executive Director of the Department of Workforce Services. At the same time he announced two other changes in his Cabinet. David Harmer, now heads the Department of Community and Economic Development and S. Camille Anthony took the helm at the Department of Administrative Services replacing Ireland.

"I have chosen to use these changes as an opportunity to reassign experienced and proven managers," said Leavitt. "I'm confident each will approach the challenges of their respective agencies with fresh insights."

Raylene Ireland served as the Executive Director of the Department of Administrative Services since 1993, overseeing eight divisions critical to the internal functions of state government such as information technology services, finance and facility management and construction. During her tenure, the state implemented the wide area network, improving productivity and making technology available to employees statewide.

"I'm very excited to be at Workforce Services. It's a new challenge for me and I plan to rely upon the team that Bob Gross has put in place," said Ireland. "I am also looking forward to touring the state and introducing myself to the staff in our employment centers and regional offices."

Ireland chairs the State Capitol Preservation Subcommittee on Planning and Preservation and has played an active role in the construction project for the Capitol campus. She currently serves on many committees and boards, including the Workers Compensation Fund Board, the Capitol Preservation Board, the National Association of State Chief Administrators, and the State Rate Committee.

Prior to her service in state government, Ireland worked in local government as the assistant to the mayor of Provo City. She has served on the Provo-Orem Chamber of Commerce and was the first woman to be elected chairperson of the Utah County Republican Party.

Ireland became a charter member of the Women In Management Council, and would later receive their "Outstanding Woman" recognition award. She was appointed to the Judicial Nominating Committee, and was the chair of the Freedom Festival Awards Gala for five years. She was also a PTA reading tutor at her children's elementary school.

From 1978 to 1985, Ireland was vice-president of Ireland and Associates, a family-run manufacturing firm. An alumna of Brigham Young University, she is married to Ward J. Ireland and currently resides in Lindon, Utah. She and her husband are the parents of seven children.

The Utah State Senate formally confirmed Raylene Ireland's appointment on April 24.

### Economic Information FREE

Discover the gold mine of economic information waiting for you on our Web site:

[http://wi.dws.state.ut.us/employer\\*](http://wi.dws.state.ut.us/employer*)

- statewide data for Utah
- county-level economic information
- local community-level information
- occupational wage data
- entry level, average, median and middle range
- employment cost index
- consumer price index
- income
- personal and per capita; median household
- list of Utah firms by industry and area: FirmFind
- complete labor market information publications
- the latest economic news
- links to lots of other sites
- links to other states
- LMI; U.S. Department of Labor; State Tax Commission; Census Bureau; Governor's Office of Demographic and Economic Analysis; U of U Bureau of Economic and Business Research

Download, print or explore a wealth of information to help you make smart business decisions!

\* In mid-2002, this URL will change to:  
<http://jobs.utah.gov/wi/employer>



## Save the date September 24, 2002

### SHRM Crossroads Conference "The Great Behind The Great"

September 24, 2002  
Golf Tournament September 27

For Registration Information Call 801-539-7495  
For Display Booth Information Call 801-455-6068

## Online Unemployment Contributions Services a Hit With Employers

"If you build it they will come" not only applies to the 1989 hit movie *Field of Dreams*, it also applies to Utah's Department of Workforce Services Unemployment Contributions' Web site.

This is confirmed by the fact that one third of all new registrations are now done through the internet. Within minutes, a new employer can obtain an account number and rate. If they need to notify the department of a change of ownership, name, address, or telephone number, they can do so online and in real-time.

An even bigger hit with employers and tax preparers is the ability to satisfy their entire quarterly reporting obligations online. Quarterly wage lists, tax reports, and payments can be submitted quickly in a four-step process that gives the employer the option of authorizing an electronic

funds transfer (EFT) or submitting their payment with a coupon. And immediately after submitting their report, the employer can view their transaction, as well as all prior filings, on a reporting history screen.

The popularity of internet reporting is evidenced by the results and comments received after it became available April 1, 2002. More than 2,500 employers, or 4.9 percent, filed their First Quarter 2002 report online. Twenty one percent of those are authorizing EFT payments.

"I had so much fun filing all my clients' returns. I am so impressed with the Department of Workforce Services for creating this opportunity for us to file on line. The step by step for filing is so simple that you don't realize how fast and easy it is."

- Accountant and Payroll Specialist  
in Provo, Utah



- \* **Recruiting employees?**
- \* **Trying to retain good employees?**
- \* **Trying to decide on pay increases for next year?**
- \* **Want to know what the going rate is for a certain occupation?**

This information is FREE and is just a mouse click away on the DWS Economic Information web site: <http://jobs.utah.gov/wi> Click on "Occupational Wage Information" and sample our wage "buffet."  
Be sure to bookmark the site for quick, easy access any time.

## KUDOS

*"Thank you, thank you, THANK YOU! Someone finally gets it! I loved filing my unemployment insurance form on your web site. The site worked (no errors), was efficient, was intuitive, and was relatively pain free (as pain free as filing payroll tax reports can be anyway)!"*

**John W. Daniels**

*"I realize that you probably don't hear a thank you very often. So I am saying thank you. Thank you for helping put food in my children's mouths, and thank you for keeping them healthy with medical insurance. I am a single mother that is trying to become independent by working 40 hours per week and without your help I would not be able to succeed."*

**Heidi Tulin**

*"I always appreciate being able to work with your staff members, but yesterday Alana Stewart went above and beyond her expected responsibilities to help an individual with great needs. Thank you for your willingness to work so well with our agency and for the flexibility of your employees to 'do something different' to help those in need."*

**Kathryn Monson,  
Program Director, CAPSA**

Utah Department of Workforce Services  
Executive Director's Office  
P.O. Box 143100  
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-3100

**Return Service Requested**

Presorted  
Standard  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Salt Lake City, UT  
Permit #4621

## Eastern Region

### *Unemployment Rates Remain High in U.S., Utah and Eastern Region*

Unemployment rates in Utah have nearly doubled since the late 1990's when the rate hovered around 3%. In April 2002, approximately 66,000 Utahns were unemployed, compared with 45,200 a year ago. Manufacturing employment peaked in 1997 at 135,000 Utah workers. Since then, employment has steadily declined and in April the number was 119,900.

In the Eastern Region, unemployment rates have increased in the Uintah Basin, and decreased in the southeast counties, with the exception of Grand County, where the rate increased from 6.6 to 7.1%. Lower oil prices continue to impact

County	April 2001	April 2002
Daggett	4.6%	4.4%
Duchesne	5.9%	7.0%
Uintah	4.2%	6.2%
Carbon	6.6%	6.1%
Emery	9.2%	8.1%
Grand	6.6%	7.1%
San Juan	9.2%	9.0%
Utah	4.1%	5.7%
United States	4.5%	6.0%

Duchesne and Uintah counties as the energy industry remains cautious about further oil and gas exploration. In spite of some reduction in unemployment rates, Carbon, Emery and San Juan counties rates in these areas are still very high.

The United States unemployment

rate has continued to grow and, in April of 2002, the number of unemployed workers reached 3.1 million. Despite declarations of a positive economic direction, U.S. employment still is not reflecting gains.

### **Contact us:**

<b>Blanding</b>	<b>678-1400</b>
<b>Castle Dale</b>	<b>381-4700</b>
<b>Moab</b>	<b>719-2600</b>
<b>Monticello</b>	<b>587-2016</b>
<b>Price</b>	<b>636-2300</b>
<b>Roosevelt</b>	<b>722-6500</b>
<b>Vernal</b>	<b>781-4100</b>